

The Late

14.

KEEPERS

OF THE

English Liberties

Drawn to the LIFE:

IN THE

QUALIFICATIONS

Of Persons by Them declar'd Capable to serve in

PARLIAMENT.



LONDON,

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CLERKS

English & American

QUALIFICATIONS

CHARLES F. T.

Printed in the Year 1861

The Late

Keepers of the Liberties

— OF —

ENGLAND,

Drawn to the LIFE, &c.

WHereas it is notorious to all that have either *Ears* or *Eyes*, That the late *Representative* of the *Parliament* of *England* did, for many years, employ their constant Endeavours to impose *Freedom* and *Liberty* upon the *Three Nations*; maugre all *Their* obstinate Reluctancy, and Opposition thereunto, who presum'd to take upon them, against Right and Reason, to be their own *Judges*: And whereas, after *Two* scandalous *Ejectments*, (occasioned by the Practices of those Ambitious *Apostates*, *Cromwell* and *Lambert*) and as many signal *Restaurations*, they happily Return'd to discharge the remaining *Fragment* of their *Trust*: It graciously pleas'd them to make known to all men, That *Then* and *There*, finding (to their unspeakable Grief) the *Red-Coat Soldiers* (in *Whom* They ever Loyally acquiesc'd) by failing in their *Pay*, to fail likewise of their *Trust*; and (seduc'd by *Evil Counsel*) to adhere to the *Common Enemy*, (that is to say, the said *Three Nations*) in complying with their Designs and Addresses, either to have the said *Representative* Dissolv'd, and a *Free Parliament* speedily Conven'd, or the *Secluded Members* Re-admitted; or else the *Then House* supply'd with *New Elections*: They did (when they saw there was no other Remedy) after serious and mature Deliberation, (though trembling at the very Thought of any one of the *Propositions*, yet) Resolve upon Filling up of their *House*, as conceiving *That* course (though of most Dangerous Consequence too) to be less Horrible

and Dreadful to themselves, than either of the *Other*. And to the end that the Persons to be *Elected*, might match the *Members* of the said *Representative* as near as possible, and so go hand in hand with them in carrying on the *Work of the Lord*; they did (on the 14th. day of *February* 1659.) unanimously Accord and Enact, that no Person whatsoever should dare to *Elect*, or to be *Elected*, (under pain of Confiscation of his *Estate*, and Sale of his *Person*) that was not allow'd Capable thereof, by the following *Qualifications*; in which they did profess, before the *Searcher of all Hearts*, that they had freely discover'd the *Naked Truth* of all their *Intentions*; as, if their *Breasts* were open'd, and their *Hearts* taken out, (as some of them afterwards were) it would manifestly appear to all the World.

QUAL. I.

Whosoever hath, at any time, been known to take the *Name of God in Vain*; that is, to *Swear* or *Forswear* himself for *Nothing*, without Advantage either to the *Publique*, or his own *Particular Concernments*, but merely out of *Rash* and *Needless Prophanation*; All such are declar'd utterly Incapable to *Elect*, or be *Elected*, as *Members* to serve in *Parliament*. For *Oaths* have been found, by Experience, to be wonderful Expedients in *State-Affairs*; and ought not to be *Made*, or *Broken*, but with great and serious Consideration.

QUAL. II.

Whosoever is noted to be a *Sabbath-breaker*, or *Prophaner of the Lords-day*, is declar'd Incapable to *Elect*, or be *Elected*, &c. For he that cannot *One* day in *Seven*, observe (at least in *shew*) *One* Commandment in *Ten*, that costs nothing the *Keeping*, nor gains any thing by being *Broken*, is deem'd not fitly *Qualify'd* to sit in *Parliament*: Because all such *Sins* as have no immediate Relation to the *Service of the House*, ought to be openly detested, to the end that the less Notice be taken of *such* as are for the *Advantage* and *Interest* of the same.

QUAL. III:

Whosoever hath, at any time, since 1640. been observ'd to be *Disguis'd in Drink*; unless he can produce Testimony that it is his usual

usual Custom to drink himself *Drunk*, alone in private, to avoid giving *Ill Example*, or else in secret and well-affected *Company* without *Healts*; is declar'd Incapable to *Elect*, or be *Elected*: Always provided, that *Surfeit* and *Gluttony* be not included within this Incapacity; nor such other *Disorders*, as may fall upon a mans Spirit at *Thanksgiving-Dinners*.

QUAL. IV.

Whosoever doth live in *Adultery* or *Fornication*; or hath, at any time, had *Carnal Copulation* with the *Wife*, *Sisters*, or *Daughter* of any of the present *Members* of *Parliament*, without the *Consent* or *Satisfaction* of the said *Member*; or hath been seen, in the *Day-time*, to resort to *Houses* of *Evil fame*; or frequent the *Company* of *Common Women*; is declar'd Incapable to *Elect*, or be *Elected*, &c. Provided that This do not extend to any Person that hath kept a *Concubine* or *Concubines* so long, that now there is no notice taken thereof; or to such as by the loss of their *Eyes*, or *Noses*, *Botches* in their *Skins*, or *Aches* in their *Bones*, can bring proof of their *Repentance*, and *Resentment* of their former *Lives*: As it hath been allow'd in the Cases of *W. Lord Vicount M. Sir H. M. Thomas Scot Esq;* and others.

QUAL. V.

Whosoever hath suffer'd for his *Conscience*, either by *Imprisonment*, *Sequestration*, or *Sale* of his *Estate*; or hath refus'd to take any *Oath* imposed by the *Parliament*, howsoever *Contradictory* to any former *Oath* by him taken; or hath gain'd nothing by the Ruine of his *Native Country*, nor is liable to suffer by any *Revolution* that may tend to the *Settlement* thereof; but, being *Unbysass'd* by any *Party*, is at Liberty to promote the *Proper* and *Natural Interests* of the *Nation* in *General*: Or hath subscrib'd any *Petition*, or *Remonstrance* for a *Free-Parliament*, or for the *Re-admission* of the *Secluded Members* to their *Right of Sitting*; or for a time to be prefixt, to determine the *Sitting* of *This Parliament*; or any thing else, against the *Sense* of the *House*; or hath declar'd against *Taxes*, *Excise*, *Free-Quarter*, *Plunder*, *Arbitrary Government*, the *Perpetuation* and *Supremacy* of this present *Parliament*, *Continuation* of the *Distractions*, *Decay* of *Trade*, and *Slavery* of the *English Nation*: Any, and Every such Person is (*ipso facto*) declar'd not only Incapable to *Elect*, or be *Elected*

Elected a Member of the present, or any future Parliament, or to bear any Office, or Place of Trust in the Commonwealth; but shall suffer such further Punishment, either by Sequestration, or Sale of his Estate, or Person, as to the Wisdom of this House shall seem expedient.

QUAL. VI.

Whosoever hath call'd *Charles Stuart, King*; or drank his *Health*, or pray'd God to *Restore him* to his *Right*, and every *Honest* man to his *Own*; or us'd any such *Malignant* and *Treasonable* Expressions: or hath call'd the *Present Parliament, Rump, Arse, Bum, Tail, or Breech*: or hath rejoiced at the *Interruption* thereof, and wish'd it at an end; or hath *Said, Arrested, Revil'd, Beaten, Kickt, Cuckolded, Trepas'd*, or refus'd to *Trust* any of the *Members* thereof, during the *Intervals*: or hath any *Action of Debt, or Bill of Complaint* against any *Member* now *Sitting*; and doth refuse to give the said *Member* a *Full Discharge, and General Release*: Any and every such Person, is declar'd utterly *Incapable to Elect*, or be *Elected to Serve* in the *present, or any future Parliament*, or of bearing any *Office or place of Trust*, in the *Commonwealth*.

QUAL. VII.

No man shall be judg'd rightly *Qualifd*, nor admitted to Sit in this *House*, as a *Member* thereof, that doth not, First, acknowledg this *Parliament* to be a *Free Parliament*, unbounded by the *Laws of God or Man*; that all things are expos'd to the *Will* of the *Members* thereof, who may freely dispose of the *Estates, Persons, Consciences, and Liver* of men as they please, and, *afterward*, make it *Lawful*: That this *House* hath a greater Power in *Civil Affairs* than the *Turk*, and, in *Spiritual*, than the *Pope*; (for it is *Head of Churches* not yet in *Being*, and judg of more *Faith*, than all the *General Councils* ever were;) that it can *Damn and Save, and Bind and Loose* in this *World*, in despite of the *Next*; make what it pleases *Holy, or Profane, True, or False, Scripture, or Apocrypha*, and no man dares to question its *Insultibility*: and that every *Member* thereof can *Vote and Swear Contradictions*, and make others do so too.

QUAL. VIII.

No man shall be judg'd rightly *Qualifd*, nor admitted to Sit in this *House*, until he hath engag'd to use his *Christian Endeavour* to carry

carry on a *thorow Reformation of the Calendar*; that the *Englis Nation* may no more use the *Julian Account*, nor reckon by the *Year of our Lord* but by the *Roman Indiction*, according to the Custom of the *Christians in ancient Times*; that is, reckon the *Year* by their *Taxes*, and not their *Taxes* by the *Year*: A *Reformation* which this *Parliament* made some Progress in before their late *Interruption*, (when they drew the *whole Year* within the compass of *four Months*) and do intend, by *God's Help*, to bring to *perfection* with all convenient Expedition.

QUAL. IX.

Whosoever makes *Profession of Godliness and Holiness of Life*, although he be commonly reputed to be both a *Fool* and a *Knave*, a *Notorious Villain*, and a *Diabolical Hypocrite*, shall nevertheless be allow'd (if duly *Elected*) to be rightly *Qualifi'd*. Provided that this *Capacity* do not extend to *C. Fleet* — *Esquire*, *J. Dill* — *Yeoman*, *Sir H.V. Knight* (lately *Ejected*) and *J. Hewson*, *Cordwainer*, of the *City of London*.

Order'd that *Dr. J. O. Mr. Hugh Peters*, and *Major J. Wildman*, be included within this *Qualification*, notwithstanding they are in *Orders*.

QUAL. X.

Whosoever hath had a hand in the *Late King's Blood*, or *Petition'd* to bring him to a *Tryal*, or hath demolish'd his *Houses*, or pull'd down *Churches* to sell the *Materials*; or can bring proof that he hath been of one or more *High Courts of Justice*; of one or more *Committees of Sale*, or *Sequestration*; of the *Committee for Propagation of the Gospel*; or hath been a *Commissioner of the Excise*, a *Sequesterator*, *Treasurer*, or *Trustee for the Sale of Kings Lands*, or *Goods*, or *Bishops*, and *Deans and Chapters*, and *Delinquents Lands*; and hath gotten a considerable *Estate*, by *Buying and Selling* the *aforsaid Lands*; and can make it appear that his *Head* is forfeited to the *Tower on London-bridge*, and the *four Quarters* of his *Outward man* to the *four respective Gates* of the *City*, upon the happening of any *Revolution*, to the *general Settlement of the Nation*: Any and every such Person is declar'd rightly *Qualifi'd* to Sit in this present *Parliament*; and shall be admitted without taking any *Oath* at all; for a man's *Skin* is tenderer than his *Conscience*; and this *World* much nearer to him than the *next*.

Q U A L. XI.

Whosoever can bring proof, (by the loss of his *Ears*, or otherwise), that he hath stood on the *Pillory* for *Perjury*, *Forgery*, *Faction*, or *Sedition*, to disturb the *Government* of the *Late King*; or that he hath been burnt in the *Hand*, *Forehead*, or *Shoulder*, thrown over the *Bar*, set in the *Stocks*, Carted or whipt at the *Tail* of a *Cart*, for any thing by him done, said, or written, against the said *Government*, before the Year 1642. shall be approv'd as most fitly Qualifi'd to Sit in *Parliament*. Provided that this shall not extend to *W. P. of Swanswick Esquire*, *Utter Bench* of *Lincoln-Inn*; nor to *Major W. P. &c.*

Q U A L. XII.

Whosoever can bring proof that he is a man of a *publick Spirit*, fit for all times and Occasions; of approved *Liberty* of *Conscience*; and of *Courage* and *Resolution* to encounter any *Danger* that extends to *Soul* or *Body*, (if need be) rather than Live out of *Authority* and *Command*, or under the *Laws* of *God* or *Man*: That he hath proper *Suits* for the Service of the present *Government*, and can do the same things by the *Spirit* of *God*, which other men are drawn to by the *Temptation* of the *Devil*: That can Break *Oaths* by *Providence*, and *Forswear* himself to the *Glory* of *God*; Deal falsely and treacherously with men out of *Conscience*, and verily believeth it to be a greater *Sin* to *Name* Faith, than to *Break* it: That *Religion* is his *Trade*, and *God* himself his *Occupation*; That he can Hold forth any *Useful*, though *Notorious* *Untruth* with convenient *Obstinacy*, until he believes it himself, and so renders it no *Sin*: That he hath an excellent *Spirit*, to find out ways of raising *Money*; and will deserve his share both of the *Substance* and *Curses* of the *People*: Any and every such Person is declar'd to be most aptly Qualifi'd to *Elect*, or be *Elected* *Member* of this present *Parliament*. Provided that this *Capacity* do not extend to *Bullstrade*, *Whistock Esquire*, *Richard Salway* *Grocer*, lately elected this *House*:

Q U A L. XIII.

Whosoever can produce Testimony that he hath taken the *Oath* of *Allegiance* and *Supremacy*, the *Profession*, the *Solemn League* and *Covenant*, the *Engagement*, to be true and faithful to the present *Government*,

vernment, without *King*, or *House of Lords*: That he hath subscrib'd the *Addresses* to Live and Die with *Oliver* and *Richard Cromwel*; and taken the *Oaths* to be true and faithful to the *Governments* under them, and yet feels no alteration in his *Conscience*, but is ready to take the *Oath* of *Abjuration* of *Charles Stuart*, *King Jesus*, or any other single Person: Any and every such Person is declar'd rightly Qualifi'd to *Elect*, or be *Elected* a *Member* of this present *Parliament*, and shall be admitted to *Sit*, (being duely *Elected*) without taking any further *Oath* at all.

QUAL. XIV.

Order'd, that a *Bill* be forthwith brought in, to make *Newgate*, *Bridewel*, and *Bedlam*, *Corporations*; that *Writs* may be issu'd out to empower them to choose their respective *Representatives*, to Serve in this present *Parliament*, in as full manner as the *Upper Bench* and the *Fleets* have already done.

QUAL. XV.

Any *Nobleman*, or late *Peer* of the *Realm*, that will Renounce his *Creation*, or his *Creator*, (and is otherwise Qualifi'd) shall be capable, (being first *Naturaliz'd* by an *Act* of this *House*) to be made a *Knight*, *Citizen*, or *Burges*s; and, being duely *Elected* and *Sworn*, shall be admitted to *Sit* among the *Rabble* of this *House*, in as full manner as *P. H.* Esquire, late *Earl* of *P.* and *Squire W. C.* late *Earl* of *S.* at this present do. Provided always, that this shall not extend to any *Peer* of the late *Other House*, that having a *Trade* to get his *Living* honestly by, did nevertheless betake himself to to lewd a course of *Life*.

QUAL. XVI.

Whosoever by *Fraud*, *Coven*, or otherwise, hath possess'd himself of another man's *Estate*, or gotten into his hands any *Office* or *Place* of considerable *Value*, by ejecting, indirectly, the right *Owner* thereof, and does not know how to maintain and justify the same so well, as by being chosen a *Member* of this *House*; he shall be approved of in so doing, to have given good *Security* for his *Fidelity* to the present *Government*, and be capable to *Elect*, or be *Elected*, &c.

QUAL. XVII.

Resolv'd that the *Curses* of the *People* shall be *restor'd* (that is to say, from this present *Year of February 1689*) be reputed and taken for their *Free Voices*; and whosoever hath *most* of the *Curses* of his *Country*, shall be understood to have *most* of their *Free Voices*, and be approv'd as most fitly *Qualify'd* to sit in this present *Parliament*: For such will be very profitable *Members* to this *House*, when it shall be judg'd seasonable to make the *People* pay for their *Cursing*, as well as they have done for their *Swearing*.

QUAL. XVIII.

No man shall be admitted to sit in This *House*, as a *Member* thereof, howsoever duly *Qualify'd* and *Elected*, (Except before Excepted) until he hath taken the following *Oath* upon the Holy *Evangelists*.

The OATH.

I A. B. do swear in the presence of Almighty God, and by the contents of This Book, to be True and Faithful to this present Parliament, as it is now Un-establisht; and to the KEEPERS OF THE LIBERTIES OF ENGLAND, (unfight, Unseen) whether they are of Invisible and Internal Nature, as Fiends, Pugs, Elves, Furies, Imps, or Goblins; or whether they are Incarnate, as Red-Coats, Loobers, Corporals, Troopers and Dragoners. I do also swear, that neither Charles Stuart, nor any Person claiming from King James, shall ever be Restor'd to the Imperial Crown of England, Scotland, and Ireland, either by Foreign or Domestick Assistance; all Dispensations and Out-goings of Providence, to the contrary, notwithstanding. I do likewise swear never to Understand, nor Believe any thing that is against the Authority, Interest, or Sense of This House; and that I will never give my Vote to determine the Sitting thereof, during the Natural Life of every Member now There Sitting; nor consent to the Establishting of any thing but Taxes, Excise, Free-Quarter, Plunder, Confiscations, Arbitrary Government, High Courts of Justice, Committees of Sale and Sequestration, a Gospel-Preaching Ministry, and Liberty of Conscience. I do further swear, that I will constantly Believe in all the Privileges of Parliament, as the

the House becometh, and that I will, to the uttermost of my Power,
 Maintain and Defend the same, although I do not understand (nor
 ever will) what they are, or how far they extend. And lest the pre-
 sent Members should (when the House is full) be secluded by their
 own Votes, (by which the secluded Members are declar'd Incapable
 of ever Sitting in Parliament, or bearing any Office of Trust in the
 Commonwealth;) I do Swear, that the secluded Members (properly
 so call'd) are not those who have been twice secluded, that is to say,
 the present Members now Sitting; but those who have been seclu-
 ded but once, that is, the major part of the Long Parliament: As al-
 so, that when it shall seem good unto this Parliament, to make eve-
 ry Member thereof an Officer, or Commander in the Army, this House
 will, nevertheless, be no Council of Officers, but the very Parliament,
 and the sword still in the hand of the Civil Magistrate: I do also
 swear, that whatsoever Time shall hereafter produce (for Govern-
 ment's off) for the advantage of the present Parliament, or what-
 soever they shall at any time Do, Say, or Swear, in order thereunto,
 how contrary soever to any thing by them formerly Done, Said, or
 Sworn; is, and will be always the GOOD OLD CAUSE, and the
 WORK OF THE LORD: That the present Distractions are for
 his Glory, and the Peace of the Government, and that the Slavery of
 the English Nation is for the Liberty of the People: That notwith-
 standing 'tis as hard for them to change their Masters, as for Christi-
 an Bondslaves in Turkie to do it; and that they are convey'd from
 Government to Government, as Rogues are from Constable to Constable,
 still to be Whipp'd and Punish'd; all is for their Freedom and Pro-
 tections in their ancient Laws, Rights, and Immunities. Lastly, I do
 swear never to divulge the Secrets of this House, nor discover the
 hidden Mysteries thereof; The admirable Art of managing Factions
 with confederate Contests in ordinary Matters; and Staving and Tay-
 ling with the Rabble of Parties in Business of Profit and Advantage;
 to carry on private Designs under the Masque of publick Good: The
 subtle ways of Packing Committees, and Frogging Businesses without
 doors: The ingenious Artifices of double Dealing, by Selling with
 one hand, Buying with the other, whereby several Members have af-
 forded themselves good Bargains of Delinquents Estates, in suborn'd
 Purchasers Names: The most excellent invention of advising Votes;
 and finding out the true value of a leading, or seconding Voice, third,
 fourth, or fifth; how many a casting Voice goes for, like the last
 Truck at Picquet; how to Bullmoose all these upon Account, so that
 every

every *Shaker* may have his *Due*; With infinite other *curious* and *use-
full Sciences*, which the present *Members* out of their long *Practice*
and *Experience* have found out, to the *Glorie* of *God*, and *Good* of
the *Nation*.

So help me God.

CHAP. XIX.

And lest the new *Election Members* should (notwithstanding all their
Oaths and *Qualifications*) oppose, and, being the greater number,
over-throw the present *Members*; (like a new piece of *Cloth* upon an
old garment, that, instead of *Patching*, tears it wider;) it is Resolv'd,
that our *new Vows* for new *Elections* be issu'd forth at one time; and
no more, until the new *Return'd Members* have been instructed in the
Principles of the *House*, and (being engag'd by profitable *Employments*)
have given proof of their *Conformity* thereunto; or, in case of *Refrac-
tion*, have been *Excluded*.

FINIS.